

**SUMMARY OF
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING of HEALTH STRATEGIES COUNCIL**
Department of Community Health/Division of Health Planning
2 Peachtree Street, Atlanta, GA 30303

**Friday, February 4, 2005
Daniel W. Rahn, MD, Chair, Presiding**

MEMBERS PRESENT

William G. "Buck" Baker Jr., M.D.
Honorable Glenda M. Battle, RN, BSN (via conference call)
Harve R. Bauguess
David Bedell, DVM
Edward J. Bonn, CHE (via conference call)
Elizabeth Brock
Tary Brown (via conference call)
W. Clay Campbell
Nelson B. Conger, DMD (via conference call)
Charlene M. Hanson, Ed.D., FNP (via conference call)
Reverend Ike E. Mack
Felix Maher, DMD
Julia L. Mikell, MD (via conference call)
James G. Peak (via conference call)
Raymer Martin Sale, Jr.
Toby D. Sidman (via conference call)
Catherine Slade
Oscar S. Spivey, MD
Tracy M. Strickland (via conference call)
Kurt M. Stuenkel, FACHE (via conference call)
David M. Williams, MD (via conference call)

GUESTS PRESENT

Keith Alexander, Alexander Consulting Group
Thomas Aversano, MD, Johns Hopkins Med. Center (conf. Call)
Jennifer Bach, Metretek Healthcare Gill/Balsano
Deborah Bailey, Northeast GA. Health System
P. Bates Bailey, Member, Cardiovascular Services TAC
James Bama, West Ga. Health System
Dan Bealle, The Strategy House
Christy Carmichael, Emory Healthcare
Robert Copeland, West Ga. Health System
Joy Davis, Rockdale Medical Center

MEMBERS ABSENT

Katie B. Foster
Katherine L. Wetherbee

STAFF PRESENT

Tim Burgess, DCH Commissioner
Neal Childers, General Counsel
Charemon Grant, Dep. Gen. Counsel
Richard Greene, JD
Robert Rozier, JD
Rhathelia Stroud, JD
Stephanie Taylor

Davis Dunbar, Piedmont Hospital
Don Fears, DeKalb Regional Health System
Brian Ginn, Medical College of Georgia
Kay Gochwin, Senator Tommie Williams's Office
Doug Holbrook, Saint Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta
Randall Hughes, Powell Goldstein
Doug Hurt, Tift Regional Medical Center
Stan Jones, Nelson Mullins
John Lindsey, Satilla Regional Medical Center
Jennifer Malinowsky, Nelson Mullins
Scott Maxwell, Mathews & Maxwell
Michele Molden, Piedmont Hospital
Mark Mullin, Gwinnett Health System
Brenda O'Steen, Satilla Regional Medical Center
Kathryn Platt, Sullivan Consulting
John Quinn, Spalding Regional Medical Center
Kevin Sass, Columbus Regional Healthcare System
John Shelton, DeKalb Regional Health System
Charles Souter, Emory Healthcare & Grady Health System
Leah Fressell Watkins, Powell Goldstein
Jack (last name illegible), Emory Healthcare/Grady Health System

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Rahn called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. He welcomed DCH, Commissioner, Tim Burgess and Thomas Aversano, MD who joined the meeting via conference call. He thanked Dr. Aversano for his willingness to participate in the call in order to address additional questions and concerns from Council members and reiterated that no public comments would be allowed at this meeting since the Department had encouraged the public to submit written public comments for distribution to the Council prior to the meeting.

EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE OF MEETING

Dr. Rahn indicated that this special meeting was convened because the Health Strategies Council and the Department had agreed that Georgia hospitals would participate in the Atlantic CPORT study which was recently approved by the John's Hopkins Institutional Review Board and had agreed that the Department would draft some proposed language for insertion into the existing Specialized Cardiovascular Services Rules to allow appropriate hospitals to participate in this research trial. He said that the proposed language was distributed to Council members and this meeting would provide a forum for further discussion.

EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED RULE

Dr. Rahn introduced Mr. Childers and asked him to provide an explanation of the proposed rule. Mr. Childers reviewed the proposed language in each section of the Proposed Rules and encouraged Council members to ask specific questions of Dr. Aversano. Following committee discussion and input from Dr. Aversano, Mr. Childers reiterated that the proposed amendment permits up to ten existing, hospital based, diagnostic, adult cardiac catheterization services, under highly controlled circumstances, to perform certain therapeutic cardiac catheterizations (e.g. coronary angioplasty, etc.) without having on-site cardiac surgical services. Only such facilities that are accepted to participate in the national medical research trial coordinated by the Atlantic Cardiovascular-Patient Outcomes Research Team, which trial has been approved by the Internal Review Board of the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, and also have received written approval from the Department to participate, shall be permitted to conduct such procedures. He emphasized that all therapeutic catheterization procedures would have to cease for all providers participating in this research trial when the research period is over at the end of the three year period or if the research protocol ended prior to that time.

ACTION ON PROPOSED RULE

Following substantial committee discussion, the Council voted on whether the Department should submit this language to the Board of the Department of Community Health for issuance for public hearing. Jim Peak made a motion, seconded by Charlene Hanson, to submit the proposed rules to the DCH, Board. Twenty-one Council members participated in the meeting; 16 members voted in support of the motion; 5 voted against it.